

THE IDENTITY OF NEMICROMELUS FULVIPES (FORBES), A
COMMON HESSIAN FLY PARASITE (HYMENOPTERA).

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The following information on this chalcidoid parasite is submitted for publication in order permanently to fix, if possible, the identity of this common Hessian fly parasite. It frequently has been referred to in literature under two specific names which at various times have been placed in six different genera.

The author hereby acknowledges his indebtedness to Dr. S. A. Forbes for information which made it possible definitely to fix the specific synonymy. The author's thanks are also due Mr. A. B. Gahan for useful information and helpful criticisms of which he has availed himself in the preparation of this paper.

Family PTEROMALIDAE.

Nemicromelus fulvipes (Forbes).

- Pteromalus* ? *fulvipes* Forbes, 14th Rept. State Ent. Ill (1884) 1885, p. 47-48.
Pteromalus fulvipes Packard, Amer. Nat., vol. 19, 1885, p. 1105.
Merisus fulvipes Cresson, Syn. Hym. N. A., 1887, p. 242.—Dalla Torre, Cat. Hym., vol. 5, 1898, p. 90.—Smith, Ins. N. J. (1909) 1910, p. 642.
Merisus (*Homoporus*) *subapterus* Riley, Proc. U. S. N. M. vol. 8, 1885, pp. 416-417, pl. xxi, fig. 2.—Packard, Amer. Nat., vol. 19, 1885, p. 1104.—Riley, Proc. Amer. Assoc. Adv. Sci. (1885), vol. 34, 1886, pp. 332-334.
Merisus subapterus Lindemann, Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou (2) I, 1887, p. 178-192.—Cresson, Syn. Hym. N. A., 1887, p. 242.—Viereck, Conn. Geol. and Nat. Hist. Sur. Bull. 22, 1916, p. 480.
Baetomus subapterus Marchal, Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr., vol. 66, 1897, p. 81.—Osborn, U. S. D. A., Div. Ent., n. s. Bull. 16, 1898, pp. 28, 32.—Felt, 17th Rept. N. Y. State Ent., Bull. St. Mus. 53, 1902 p. 721, fig. 3.—Webster, U. S. D. A. Bur. Ent. Cir. 70, 1906, pp. 12-13.—Felt, 28th Rept. N. Y. State Ent., 1913, p. 40.—Webster, U. S. Farmers' Bull. 640, 1915, pp. 16, 20, fig. 17.
Homoporus subapterus Dalla Torre, Cat. Hym., vol. 5, 1898, p. 91.—Smith, Ins. N. J. (1909) 1910, p. 642.
Micromelus subapterus Ashmead in Smith's Ins. N. J., 1900, p. 558.—Kurdiumov Entom. Viestnik, vol. 2, no. 1, 1913, pp. 1-4.—Fyles, Ont. Ent. Soc. Rept. No. 46, 1916, p. 56.—Packard, C. M., Jour. Agr. Res., vol. 6, 1916, pp. 367, 377-381.—McColloch, Kans. Exp. Sta. Tech. Bull. 11, 1924, pp. 63-72.
Nemicromelus subapterus Girault, Descriptiones Hymenopterorum Chalcidicarum Variorum cum Observationibus, V, Aug. 8, 1917, p. 4.

In 1885, Dr. C. V. Riley described a species of Hessian fly parasite under the name *Merisus* (*Homoporus*) *subapterus*. During this same year Dr. S. A. Forbes also published a description of a Hessian fly parasite under the name *Pteromalus* (?) *fulvipes*. Both of these descriptions were found later to apply to the same species and accordingly Cresson listed the two names separately under *Merisus* but indicated they were

synonymous although he did not state which name had priority. Dalla Torre listed the species as *Merisus fulvipes* and also as *Homoporus subapterus*, the latter with *Pteromalus fulvipes* cited as a synonym. Marchal, Osborn, and other authors later referred to the species as *Baeotomus subapterus*. Ashmead placed it in *Micromelus* Walker and Kurdiumov, Fyles, C. M. Packard and McColloch have followed Ashmead. In 1917, Girault erected the genus *Nemicromelus* and cited *Merisus subapterus* Riley as the genotype which he said equaled *fulvipes*.

Recently, in the course of the preparation of a paper on the parasites of the Hessian fly, the question arose as to which should be the proper specific name for this species, *subapterus* or *fulvipes*.

The author realizing that the correct specific name for this parasite depended upon the actual dates of the publication of the descriptions of *Pteromalus fulvipes* and *Merisus subapterus* within the year 1885, wrote to Mr. A. B. Gahan of the Bureau of Entomology, in order to learn, if possible, the actual dates of their publication. To this letter Mr. Gahan replied as follows:

"The question of priority as between *fulvipes* (Forbes) and *subapterus* (Riley) is not an easy one to answer. Riley's species was described in Proc. U. S. N. M., Vol. 8, p. 416, 1885, and the actual date of publication of this part of the volume was October 3, 1885. The description of *fulvipes* (Forbes) appears in the fourteenth Report of the State Entomologist of Illinois, p. 47. This report is for the year 1884, but was published in 1885, and I am unable to determine the exact date of publication. I find that both papers were reviewed in the American Naturalist, Vol. 19, November, 1885, p. 1104. This review is the only one that I can find which gives any key to the time of appearance of Forbes's paper. It appears, however, that Osborn and Dalla Torre, and perhaps others, have listed *fulvipes* as a synonym of *subapterus*. Perhaps they had definite information as to which name was earlier. If you find any information which will establish definitely which name was first published, I should be glad to be made acquainted with it."

Upon receipt of this reply which did not fully satisfy the author, he wrote to Dr. Forbes, inquiring the actual date of his description of *Pteromalus fulvipes*. Dr. Forbes replied as follows:

"I have looked through my office letter files for 1885 and find definite evidence as to the date of publication of my 3d report, the 14th of the State Entomologist's Office.

"The earliest acknowledgments which I find of receipt of copies are from G. H. French of Carbondale, Illinois, September 2, 1885; F. M. Webster, then at Purdue University, September 3d; Professor N. H. Winchell of Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 11th; Dr. J. A. Lintner, Albany, N. Y., September 14th, all antedating Riley's paper which bears the publication dates of September 14th and 17th for parts one and two respectively.

"I find also under date of September 16th a request for the 13th and 14th reports of the State Entomologist's Office from the State Library of Massachusetts, showing that a knowledge of the appearance of the 14th report had begun to become general by that date.

"I am enclosing these letters, which you will kindly return when you have verified their dates."

Upon the receipt of this interesting and valuable information the writer submitted his evidence to Mr. Gahan, in response to which he replied as follows:

"Your registered letter of March 1 received, and I was very glad to see the interesting correspondence sent by Dr. Forbes. The evidence he submits seems to be very conclusive that the description of *Pteromalus fulvipes* Forbes antedates the description of *Merisus subapterus* Riley. This being the case, of course *fulvipes* is the specific name which should be used."

"P. S.: Although the dates printed on the signatures in which Riley's description of *subapterus* appeared are Sept. 14th and 17th as Forbes states, the records in the office of Correspondence and Documents of the U. S. National Museum indicate that the papers were not received from the Government Printing Office until Oct. 3.

A. B. G."

Although the author regrets to see the name *subapterus*, which is so applicable to the species, give way to the name *fulvipes*, yet the change must be made, if the rule of priority is to be strictly adhered to, and credit given the one to whom it rightly belongs.

In view of the fact that Girault erected the genus *Nemicromelus* citing *Merisus subapterus* Riley as the genotype which has now proven to be a synonym of *Pteromalus fulvipes* Forbes, the proper name to be applied to this common species of Hessian fly parasite is *Nemicromelus fulvipes* (Forbes).

THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF THE GENUS HARMOLITA MOTSCHULSKY WITH ADDITIONAL NOTES (HYMENOPTERA).

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Messrs. W. J. Phillips and W. T. Emery in 1919¹ published a "Revision of the Chalcid-Flies of the Genus *Harmolita* of America North of Mexico." Largely upon the advice of Mr. J. C. Crawford and the writer, the authors used the generic name *Harmolita* Motschulsky for this group of insects which constitutes the well known jointworms of grasses and grains previously going under the generic name *Isosoma* Walker. The name *Isosoma* was shown to be preoccupied, having been used by Billberg (1820) in Coleoptera. Dr. Ashmead, in his "Classification of the Chalcid Flies," had pointed out that Mot-

¹Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. vol. 55, 1919, p. 443-471.